

# TRIBUTE TO RETIRED CAPTAIN THOMAS JEROME HUDNER, JR.

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I rise today in tribute to retired United States Navy Captain Thomas Jerome Hudner, Jr. of Concord, MA, a true American hero. For his uncommon valor and dedication to the highest principals of our military, the Navy announced this week it will name the Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer DDG-116 the *USS Thomas Hudner*.

It is a distinct honor, for an individual to have a Navy vessel commissioned in their name; it is an extremely rare honor indeed for a warship to be named after a living person. Yet there are few, if any, people more deserving of this honor than Tom Hudner.

A native of Fall River, MA, Hudner was a student at Philips Exeter Academy when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Already a leader on his school's athletic fields and in its student government, he responded to the call of duty and was admitted to the U.S. Naval Academy. Though World War II ended before his commissioning at Annapolis, Hudner began a storied Navy career that would ultimately earn him our nation's highest military honor.

During his first few years in the Navy, Hudner served as a communications officer aboard various warships before being accepted to the Navy's flight school in Corpus Christi, TX. After earning his "wings of gold," Hudner became one of the "Fighting Swordsmen" of Strike Fighter Squadron 32 (VF-32) aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Leyte*. Just a few years after the racial integration of the US military, Hudner began flying with a young ensign named Jesse LeRoy Brown, the Navy's first black pilot. Brown was born and raised in the segregated deep south town of Hattiesburg, MS, a world away from Hudner's upper middle class home in Fall River and the fields of Hudner's alma mater Philips Exeter Academy.

The relative calm of post-war life as a Naval Aviator aboard the Mediterranean-based *USS Leyte* would not last long. In the summer of 1950, less than a year after Hudner's flight certification, North Korean Communist forces invaded the Republic of Korea. Within months, President Truman would order the *Leyte* into action off the coast of Korea where Hudner and his wingman, Jesse Brown, immediately began flying reconnaissance and attack sorties against Communist positions. Not long after VF-32 joined the fight, China invaded and threatened to overrun US positions.

There are no routine missions in wartime, especially when flying close air support over enemy positions. Such was the case on the afternoon of December 4, 1950 when Hudner and Brown were on a mission to destroy enemy targets near the Chosin Reservoir. About an hour into the mission, Brown's Corsair was hit by enemy fire,

began to lose fuel and he was forced to crash land his aircraft into a snowy mountainside.

The events that transpired over the next few hours became enshrined in the history of American Naval Aviation.

Despite exposure to hostile ground fire, Hudner continued to make low passes over Brown, who was trapped in the wreckage of his destroyed aircraft. And, when Hudner saw that his wingman's plane was burning, he deliberately crash-landed his own aircraft and though injured in the violent landing, ran to Brown's rescue. You see for Hudner, never leaving one's wingman was more than a guideline, it was a covenant. Hudner, later a rescue helicopter pilot, tried in vain to free Brown from the wreckage. With night falling and Ensign Brown lapsing in and out of consciousness, Hudner was finally forced to evacuate the bitter cold crash site. Brown's final words to Hudner were to tell his wife, Daisy, that he loved her. He would have the chance to do just that in person. On April 13, 1951, Daisy Pearl Brown was in the audience when President Harry S. Truman presented Thomas J. Hudner, Jr. with the Medal of Honor for his heroic attempt to save Ensign Brown.

Over the next two decades, Hudner would continue to serve with distinction in the United States Navy. In addition to flying many of the Navy's newest jet fighters, Hudner's career would take him from various ships and air bases where he served in positions of increasing responsibility, including as executive officer of the *USS Kitty Hawk* during the Vietnam War.

Hudner and Daisy Pearl Thorne, she had since remarried, remained friends, their lives intertwined by the events decades earlier on a snowy mountainside on the other side of the globe. In fact, the two friends would be together at another ceremony some 22 years later when the US Navy commissioned the first American warship in honor of an African American, the *USS Jesse L. Brown*.

Hudner retired from the US Navy at the rank of captain in 1973, and while his day-to-day service in the Navy would end, this American hero would continue to serve his fellow veterans through the USO and a variety of veterans' organizations. For most of the 1990s, Hudner served with distinction as Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Affairs.

In closing, I will quote Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus:

Thomas Hudner exemplifies the core values of honor, courage and commitment the Navy holds dear. Naming the Navy's next DDG for him will ensure his legacy will be known, honored and emulated by future generations of sailors and Marines who serve and all who come in contact with this ship.

I thank Captain Hudner for his lifetime of exceptional service to our nation and his dedication to his fellow veterans and wish him and his wife Georgia all the very best in the years ahead.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### 2012 ACADEMIC DECATHLON CHAMPIONS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work and remarkable accomplishments of Granada Hills Charter High School's Academic Decathlon team for winning the 2012 Academic Decathlon—its second consecutive national championship. I want to congratulate all the members of the team: Christian Koguchi, Stella Lee, Priscilla Liu, Kimberly Ly, Hamidah Mahmud, Lev Tautz, Julia Wall, Sean Wejebe, and Jimmy Wu, as well as its coaches Matthew Arnold, Nick Weber, and Spencer Wolf.

Each year, hundreds of high schools throughout our Nation compete for the honor of becoming Academic Decathlon National Champions. This year, Granada Hills Charter High School not only became one of three schools to ever win consecutive national championships, but also set the highest score ever achieved at the Academic Decathlon National Championships.

Competing in an Academic Decathlon is a daunting task. The Academic Decathlon's intense 2-day national final competitions include multiple-choice testing in seven different events, speeches, essay writing, and interviewing exercises. Students spend many hours studying, practicing, and competing, often away from their family and friends. I invite all of my colleagues to join me and the State of California in congratulating California's Granada Hills Charter High School Academic Decathlon team on becoming 2012 National Academic Decathlon Champions.●

### REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT B. SHAIN

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of LTC Robert B. Shain, who passed away on Sunday, April 29, 2012. I would like to express my condolences to Lieutenant Colonel Shain's family, in particular his wife of 52 years, Sherry, his two daughters, Cynthia and Stephanie, his son, Michael, and his three grandkids, Bella, Jason, and Mia. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Nancy, and many nieces and nephews.

Robert Shain had an honorable and extensive career which began upon his graduation from the Military Academy at West Point in 1959. He served in the US Army for 20 years as an infantry officer as well as a fixed-wing and helicopter pilot. He completed two tours of duty in Vietnam and was awarded the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Bronze Stars, 27 Air Medals with V for valor, Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnamese Medal of Honor, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He served as commander of the Executive Flight Detachment and pilot of the presidential helicopter,

Army One, for presidents Nixon and Ford from 1973 to 1976.

Following his retirement, he enjoyed a long professional career in the aeronautics industry. He was an active supporter of the National Rifle Association and a member of the Military Officers Association. However, I understand that his greatest joy in life was spending time with his loving family.

Bob Shain lived every aspect of his life whether service to his country, to his family, or to his business with unrivaled pride and dignity. The career of Lieutenant Colonel Shain serves as a reminder of the sacrifice and commitment that has carried our great nation through the toughest of times. His service to the people of the United States and the State of Iowa is worthy of much admiration and respect. I am grateful for his service and pay tribute to his patriotism.●

#### TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR JAMES OLESEN

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Professor James Olesen from the Department of Music at Brandeis University, the winner of the 2012 Festival of the Creative Arts Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Arts.

The Festival, which began in 1952, celebrates the idea that “art activates dreams, revolution, and the future,” and Professor Olesen’s career is certainly deserving of this special recognition amid the creativity and community of the Festival that blooms on the Brandeis campus every spring.

Professor Olesen has spent his career striving for excellence and fostering musical greatness in his students as the Choral Director at Brandeis since 1972. He has served as Music Department Chair and collaborated with faculty members and other departments on various music programs. He was instrumental in the creation of the Office of the Arts and School of Creative Arts.

Throughout his long and illustrious career, Professor Olesen has sung as a professional chorister with numerous conductors, including Charles Munch, Gustav Meier, Leopold Stowkowski and the founder of the Festival, the legendary Leonard Bernstein.

Professor Olesen also has performed with premier musical organizations including the American Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Robert Shaw Chorale and the American Ballet Theater at venues including Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Opera.

Professor Olesen has also recorded for Columbia, RCA and Decca Records. He is former Director of the Back Bay Chorale and founded and directed the Orpheus Singers. In 2008, the University Chorus, under his direction, made the first international tour by any Brandeis student music ensemble.

His career reflects Mr. Bernstein’s belief that “the art of an era is a re-

flection of the society in which it is produced, and through creative endeavors the thoughts and expression which characterize each generation are revealed and transformed.”

I congratulate Professor Olesen on this wonderful achievement, thank him for his service to our young people, and salute all that he’s accomplished.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4133. An act to express the sense of Congress regarding the United States-Israel strategic relationship, to direct the President to submit to Congress reports on United States actions to enhance this relationship and to assist in the defense of Israel, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4967. An act to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2668. An act to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 2136 South Naco Highway in Bisbee, Arizona, as the “Brian A. Terry Border Patrol Station”.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4133. An act to express the sense of Congress regarding the United States-Israel strategic relationship, to direct the President to submit to Congress reports on United States actions to enhance this relationship and to assist in the defense of Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, May 10, 2012, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1302. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6029. A communication from the Chief of Policy and Rules Division, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Unauthorized Operation in the TV Broadcast Bands, Third Memorandum Opinion and Order” (ET Docket No. 04-186; FCC 12-36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6030. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal School Training Operations at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida” (RIN0648-AY64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6031. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Electric Motors and Small Electric Motors” (RIN1904-AC05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6032. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; California; Western Mojave Desert Ozone Nonattainment Area; Reclassification to Severe” (FRL No. 9669-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6033. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Ohio; Determination of Clean Data for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Standard for the Steubenville-Weirton Area” (FRL No. 9669-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6034. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Kentucky; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan; Correction” (FRL No. 9669-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 8, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6035. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Nonattainment New Source Review